

**Probation Services Task Force
Roundtable Discussion Notes
December 7, 2000
Beyond the Bench
Universal City Sheraton
Los Angeles, California**

Probation Services Task Force Attendance:

Hon. Frank Ochoa, Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Ms. Audrey Evje, Mr. Josh Weinstein,
Ms. Jennifer Walter, Mr. Jeff Winick

Approximately 60 attendees

Judge

CPO should be selected by court, needs to be responsible to court.

Losing rehabilitation, becoming law enforcement—tone is enforcement, may be appropriate with adult but not with juvenile.

Caseloads are too high, specialized caseloads i.e. DV too high → banked cases
(What is effect on victims?)

Inconsistencies with services

Social Services & probation work well together (history of probation in dependency)

Standing Court Order, exchange of info & work well together (some cases go from 600 system to 300 system)

Hiring now administration of judgement, rather than broad spectrum.

Deputy Probation Officer

Chief appointed without interview process

Caseload size, up to chief and & board to fund
Less supervision (kids come to office)

Law enforcement is an issue, but DPO need to enforce orders.

New DPO training regarding services

Informal probation is a joke

Ownership – DPO's want to be state employees (w/parole)

State DSS (Good local relationship)

Computerized system to check on kids because probation doesn't have access

Should have training for DPO & DSS on joint issues (& mental health)
(i.e. Beyond the Bench)

300 (was mental, juvenile and adult) active caseload now down to 120

Grant funding is problematic

Social Worker

Feedback from Ancillary Services

PD Officer, DA, DSS, Mental Health, Education

Little coordination of services

Need to consider all services

Need feedback from people receiving services

Judge

In mental health issue of kids in delinquency

Mental Health in juvenile hall - positive impact

Mental Health working well with probation

Mental Health (Delinquency and Dependency)

Merger of Mental Health and Social Services has had positive impact

Important to have partnerships (Social Services, Mental Health, Education, Probation)

Mental Health staff in juvenile hall and boot camps

Drug Court
Day Reporting Center – Post incarceration

Assess Community resources (don't have enough court resources so you need to work with community)

Blend Funding Streams

Contract with _____ regarding truancy, mentoring, working with schools.

Presiding Juvenile Judge

Separation of powers
Can't separate money from appointment

Approval Process SF method interesting, may not make sense to keep adult and juvenile together.

Multi-Disciplinary Teams – since probation part of court, they participate, hard to get Sheriff and Police involved.

Lack Stable Funding

- Probation, low priority compared to other law enforcement entities
- Shouldn't have to rely on grants

Standards

- Board of corrections has ratio regarding facilities,
- this has led to Deputy Probation Officers being pulled from field services.
(caused by staffing problems) leading to no supervision

Local Mental Health facilities need locked and not locked Pre and Post

Probation Manager

7 years probation and Social Services working together (Co-Located)

Percent Federal and State Legislature Changes

Court Manager

Collaboration of Funding

Cross supervision of probation and social services and education

Co Located

Much quicker by working together

Drug Courts, successfully work together also Day Reporting, center, Domestic Violence Court

Top leadership all meet weekly (workable in small county)

Probation (Adult and Juvenile)

Also worked in Social Services in Appalachia and ran group homes.

Sees probation as an arm of the court

Juvenile and adult should be separate

(Juvenile appointment by Juvenile PJ, adult by Court Presiding Judge)

Juvenile probation, not align with law enforcement in same way as happens with adult.

Multidisciplinary teams, place in juvenile, maybe not with adult.

Grant Funding

- Kids funded re grants get lots of services vs. kids who've never met Deputy Probation Officer
- Too dependent on grant funding, not enough money & service for regular teams.

Probation needs to be arm of court.

Probation Officer

Success with Diversion Caseload

This is a motivation for Deputy Probation Officer

P.O. visits the home, school, etc. not just office visits.

There are few services offered in the home.

Gang Units - Left to police not probation

Drug Rehab Low success but typical of such programs

Defense Attorney

Obvious when probation and Social Services not talking and fighting over money.

Outside service placement problem

Special needs kids end up in juvenile hall for weeks or months waiting for placement.

State should spend money to get everyone together to talk.

Judge needs to be involved.

Attorney , now non-profit.

Educational news of kids in 602 and 300

Look at models in Nevada County

Focus on end (gangs) rather than truancy – need to address needs and front-end-truancy courts

In Monterey

School got grant to fund truancy program on campus (Deputy Probation Officer at School)

Problems with District Attorney not following through.

Social Worker/ Service Provider

Invite Providers in.

- Wrap around services

- Preventative Services

Need to keep kids with family whenever possible.

Deputy PO

System for 300/ 600 cross over
High need for risk assessment

Training of DPO's and CBO's is key.

Grants - Probation , Social Services, CBO, Mental Health working together
Need more level playing field.

Can't have success with out CBO partnership

Education – attending schools should be **key** to probation
- It is a disservice to kids to not deal with truancy

Legislation regarding 601
- Make sure kids go to school

HSS

Best practice and _____nationally
- fragmentation isn't working
- need state leadership as to what works with these kids

Attorney for Kids

Coordinated funding between neighboring counties

Services are for 300 kids and not 602s (Placement vs. Services)

Services are punitive, with 300 they are rehabilitative

Need to give kids goals other than “Going Home” or turning 18.

Social Services

241.1

Doesn't work together

Local community agencies need to talk to one another (works better when everyone works together)

Program Manager Social Services

Statutorily Services are available to 300 and 600 kids, and lack of services in 602 is bad policy.

Probation needs to work with Social Services etc.

Shared placements

Work together and be collaborative (Probation and Social Services)

Primary prevention and intervention is crucial
Many don't get services until it's too late.

CYA Assembly Committee

Legislative support at state level
Need data on treatment needs

Strategies for program funding
Need to have state department or agencies
i.e. delinquency services from State Mental Health Etc.

AB 575 – parole services but no money

CPS

CPS/ Probation have good relationship Multi-disciplinary teams

Difficulty with placements
- Some like 602's be of juvenile hall threat

Wraparound Services pilot (5 year with control) is working well.

241 once child is done with 602 no way to go back to 300 or home.
Therefore kept in placement

Probation Management

Lack of state leadership
State probation department
Hurts money and legislation

No mechanism to change statewide
Coordinate between counties

Difference between juvenile and adult and within department they compete for money.

Need Service Standards

Additional Comments

Lack of psychiatrists, 10% of children in juvenile hall are on meds, resulting in recidivism

241.1 ish dual status, explore staying 300 or 602

Elected CPO (Power like District Attorney, Sheriff)

Budget with Presiding Judge not the Board

3% at 50 (Safety Retirement)

Gangs as treatment need

